Pollution due to Cement Plants in the Country

1195. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct a comprehensive assessment of pollution problems in the country's cement plants and formulate measures for reducing dust emission and abetment of noise in specific cases; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Based on assessment of the pollution problems of the Cement Plants in the country, emission standards have been specified under the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. A Task Force has been set up to check the levels of pollution from different units and to work out a time-table for compliance of the standards. Measures for noise abatement are being taken under the provisions of the Factories Act and civic laws.

Freedom fighters granted Pension Under the Central Government Scheme

1196. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Finister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of freedom fighters who have been granted pension so far in the country under the Central Government scheme; and

(b) how many cases of freedom fighters are still pending with Government for disposal?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) As on 31st January, 1986, 1,37,794 freedom fighters and the dependents of deceased freedom fighters have been sanctioned pension under the Central Pension Scheme. As on 31st January, 1986 75,130 cases are yet to be finalised.

Legislation for free access to official documents

1197. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for over 200 years Sweden has provided open and easy access to official documents and full information to any citizen about administrative activities of the peoples' democratic Government under the freedom of Press Act; and

(b) whether similar legislation exists in this country and if not, whether such legislation is proposed to be enacted in overall national interest and principle of open Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) According to information available, the first Freedom of Press Act was introduced in Sweden in 1766.

(b) There is no similar law in India and there is no proposal before the Government to have such a legislation.

Financial assistance to U.P. Government

1198. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government urged the Central Government to make a special provision of financial assistance for the eastern districts of the State on the pattern of grant for the hilly regions in the State; and

(b) if so, what arguments have been put forward by the Uttar Pradesh Government and what action is being taken by the Central Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Land acquisition in the Union Territories

1199. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how much land has been notified for acquisition in the Union Territories for public purposes under the Land Acquisition Act;

(b) how many land acquisition proposals are pending in the Union Territory of Pondicherry Administration after the publication of Section 4(1) of the notification; and

(c) how much amount has been deposited in the revenue deposit for land acquisition cases, for how many cases and since how long?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment towards salary to suspended officials in Pondicherry

1200. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government employees under suspension in various Departments in Pondicherry and in how many cases departmental proceedings are being conducted;

(b) how many cases are pending with the enquiry officer and since when; and

(c) how much amount has been given as salary to the suspended officials for the past three years from 1983, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Diversion of funds to States allocated by Planning Commission for specific programmes

1201. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States have diverted the funds allocated for hill development, agriculture and rural development and anti-poverty programmes for other purposes;

(b) if so, the names of States which have diverted the funds and for what purpose these funds are being utilised;

(c) whether the Planning Commission have worked out some plans to penalise the States for diverting Central funds earmarked for specific purposes; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) A statement is enclosed.